

## House Resolution No. 2368

**Whereas**, it is with tremendous pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse legislative actions in order to convey a warm Show-Me State welcome to visitors to this state with its varied geography, economy, cultures, and history; and

**Whereas**, Bishop Mar Mathew Arackal of Kanjirapally, India, has attained considerable distinction as the head of a diocese that includes 117 schools, eleven hospitals, four colleges, 250 priests, 1,600 nuns, and a sizeable number of social workers; and

**Whereas**, the founder of several nongovernmental organizations designed to improve the lives of the poor and women in his diocese, Bishop Mar Mathew Arackal is visiting the United States in general and the state of Missouri in particular in an effort to establish educational partnerships in engineering with such institutions as Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla; and

**Whereas**, Mathew Arackal prepared for his lifelong endeavors by studying at Saint Thomas High School in Erumely, India; Saint Thomas Minor Seminary in Changanacherry; and Saint Thomas Apostolic Seminary in Vadavathoor; and

**Whereas**, Mathew Arackal was ordained as a priest on March 13, 1971, by Mar Antony Padiyara, after which time he faithfully served as Assistant Vicar at Amboori Church, Director of Samaritan Hospital, Estate Manager and then Assistant Procurator of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, Vicar of Peermedu and Murinjapuzha, and Parish Priest at Elappara; and

**Whereas**, consecrated as Bishop of Kanjirapally on February 9, 2001, in Saint Dominics Cathedral, Mathew Arackal took as his motto, "To have life and have it abundantly"; and

**Whereas**, Bishop Mar Mathew Arackal also deserves mention of the significant role he has performed in establishing the first Labour Cooperative Society in Kerala, the Peermedu Development Society, the Kallivayalil Pappan Memorial Charitable Trust, the High Range Medical Centre, Sahyadri Ayurvedic Pharmaceuticals, and two major residential training centers for rural development with research wings and lab facilities that promote biotechnology and ecologically friendly farming practices:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to welcome Bishop Mar Mathew Arackal to the state of Missouri and to convey to him this legislative body's most heartfelt commendation of his spiritual, educational, and service leadership that focuses on empowering the poor and women of India; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to Bishop Mar Mathew Arackal of Kanjirapally, India.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Mary C. Kasten  
District No. 158

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2368, adopted April 29, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Jetton, Speaker